



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

February 19, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICERS

FROM: Jonathan Powers
Federal Environmental Executive

SUBJECT: EPEAT Clarification for Federal Purchasers

The U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulation subpart 23.705 requires Federal agencies to satisfy at least 95 percent of their annual acquisition requirements for electronic products with Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)-registered products, unless there is not an EPEAT standard for such products. The requirement applies to contracts performed in the United States, unless otherwise provided by agency procedures.

This memo provides answers to frequently asked questions about the types of electronic devices that are covered by EPEAT. The answers to these questions will assist agencies in meeting the reporting requirements in the OMB Sustainability/Energy Scorecard and the Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan.

Which products does EPEAT cover?

EPEAT has incorporated standards which cover the following products:

- Computer Desktops, Notebooks, Displays, Integrated Desktop Computers, Workstation Desktops, and Thin Clients¹
- Imaging equipment (Printers, Copiers, Multi-Function Devices, Scanners, Fax Machines, Digital Duplicators, Mailing Machines)²
- Televisions³

¹ As defined by the ENERGY STAR Computer Specification Version 5.2 and the IEEE 1680.1 Standard for the Environmental Assessment of Personal Computer Products.

² As defined by the ENERGY STAR Imaging Equipment Specification Version 1.0 and IEEE 1680.2 Standard for the Environmental Assessment of Imaging Equipment.

³ Essentially as defined by the ENERGY STAR Television Specification Version 5.3 and IEEE 1680.3 Standard for the Environmental Assessment of Televisions.

EPEAT incorporated standards do not cover the following products:

- Slate computing devices⁴
- Cellular phones, PDAs, or other handheld/mobile devices
- Peripherals, except those sold with covered products
- Digital whiteboards
- Battery operated handheld scanners and printers
- Desktop (small-scale) servers
- Professional signage/displays
- Digital picture frames

What is the difference between notebook tablet computers and slate computing devices?

The ENERGY STAR Computer Specification 5.2 defines these two products differently:

- Notebook tablet computers, which use both a touch-sensitive screen and a physical keyboard, are considered Notebook Computers and are covered by the ENERGY STAR Computer Specification 5.2 and EPEAT.
- Slate computing devices, which are a type of computer lacking a physical keyboard, relying solely on touchscreen input, having solely a wireless network connection (e.g., Wi-Fi, 3G), and primarily powered from an internal battery (with connection to the mains for charging, not primary powering of the device) are considered handhelds and are NOT considered notebook computers that are covered by the ENERGY STAR Computer Specification 5.2 nor EPEAT. ENERGY STAR and EPEAT do not currently have specification/standards for slate computing devices.

Products included on the EPEAT Registry are defined by the IEEE 1680 Family of Standards, which is harmonized with the product definitions in applicable ENERGY STAR Specifications.

⁴ As defined by Energy Star Computer Specification Version 5.2.

Do federal purchasers need to buy or lease EPEAT registered tablet notebook computers?

Yes. When purchasing or leasing a tablet notebook computer (as defined in ENERGY STAR Computer Specification Version 5.2), federal purchasers must purchase or lease an EPEAT-registered and ENERGY STAR qualified tablet notebook computer. ENERGY STAR qualified tablet notebook computers meet federal low standby power requirements.

Do federal purchasers need to buy or lease EPEAT registered slate computing products?

No. When purchasing or leasing a slate computing product, federal purchasers are free to procure whichever product meets their needs, since there are currently no EPEAT or ENERGY STAR requirements for these products.

In June 2014 the Energy Star Version 6.0 Computer Specification will become effective. Please refer to www.energystar.gov for more information. ENERGY STAR intends to address slate computing devices in their Version 6.1 Computer Specification.

EPEAT Reporting in OMB's Sustainability/Energy Scorecard:

As input for OMB's Sustainability/Energy Scorecard, agencies are asked to provide the number of units and percentage of printers, multi-function devices, TVs , monitors, PCs, and laptops they have purchased which were EPEAT registered products at the time of purchase. As some agencies have asked for clarification about the definition of these products to assist in this reporting, they should first refer to the definitions listed in the IEEE 1680 Family of Standards for these products. Additional clarification is provided below:

Multi-Function Devices (MFDs) (also called multifunction products (MFP) or All-in-One (AIO) devices) perform two or more of the core functions of a printer, scanner, copier, or fax machine. An MFD may have a physically integrated form factor (meaning the form something takes, which may or may not influence the basic function of the device. For example in computers, you can have a small or larger tower, so that they have similar parts inside, but they look different and fit in spaces differently), or it may consist of a combination of functionally integrated components. MFD copy functionality is considered to be distinct from single-sheet convenience copying functionality sometimes offered by fax machines.

Printers only perform one function – printing. Agencies should also include printers that can be configured to perform other functions after purchase in this category, for example adding a duplex tray, or adding scan/fax functions.

Televisions (TVs) cover products marketed as televisions with a screen size of 15 inches or larger. Television combination units - which include a TV and one or more additional devices (e.g., DVD player, Blu-ray disc player, hard disk drive) combined into a single enclosure, in which all components connect to a wall outlet via a single power cord, are included in this category. Component televisions – which are composed of two or more separate components (e.g., display device and tuner) that are marketed and sold as a TV under a single model or system designation are also covered by EPEAT and should be reported under this category.

Monitors are products listed under “displays” in the EPEAT Product Registry.

PCs are products listed under “desktops”, “workstation desktops”, “integrated desktop computers”, and “thin clients” in the EPEAT Product Registry.

Laptops are products listed under “notebooks” under the EPEAT Product Registry.

Cc: Chief Information Officers
Chief Acquisition Officers
Senior Procurement Executives